



STUDENTS' EXPERIMENT STATION, TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE

Perhaps the best-known feature of this work of school extension is the Annual Negro Conference started in February, 1892, when seventy-five representative Negroes of Macon County, most of them farmers, inaugurated a movement whose success has been marked, and the Annual Conference now includes not only farmers in all sections of the South, but many student and teacher visitors, who come for the purpose of getting first-hand knowledge of conditions in the South. These conferences are held for two days, the first day being given to the farmers and the second to students and teachers. A Conference agent is employed by the school, who organizes local conferences in different communities in the state, and visits those conference already established to encourage them in their work. About one hundred local organizations have been established.

#### A Plantation Settlement

A plantation settlement was established in 1898 on a plantation eight miles from Tuskegee, and was an original attempt made by Mrs. Booker T. Washington to adapt the methods of the "University Settlement" to the needs of the people who lived in the primitive conditions that still obtain on the large plantation in the "Black Belt." The work was begun in an aban-

doned one-room cabin, the use of which had been loaned to Mrs. Washington by the owner of the plantation. The school, which enrolls from seventy to one hundred pupils, has been supported by funds obtained by Mrs. Washington from friends. The pupils raise on the few acres attached to the Settlement School more than fifty bushels of vegetables, in addition to those used by the teacher and her family.

Rural school extension encourages the Negroes in all the country districts to secure better schoolhouses and maintain longer school terms. This work was inaugurated in 1905, and the Negro farmers in Macon County have contributed several thousand dollars to the building of schoolhouses and to the lengthening of the school terms.

Nearly six hundred persons are reached through what are known as the "Mother's Meetings," established by Mrs. Washington. About a dozen communities in Macon County and elsewhere maintain these meetings. The purpose is to interest the women in the condition of their families and their homes, to suggest methods for helping their husbands in caring for their children, and to encourage those who are making an effort to improve and lift themselves out of the prevailing conditions.